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PREP FOOTBALL

Defense carries Riverside

Echo wins big, Heppner loses second straight, Umatilla falls on road

HERMISTON HERALD

After their original season opener was canceled last week, the Riverside Pirates hosted the Union Bobcats for their season opener on Friday and came out on top.

Riverside used a stout defensive effort and just enough offense to tally the victory in their opener, beating Union 8-6.

It was a much different game than the 2016 meeting between the two teams, which ended in a 30-27 shootout, but the Pirates are still ecstatic with the win.

"It's a great feeling," Riverside assistant coach Loren Dieter said. "We have a young team this year and have lone kids with us this year. They've blended in and played pretty well ... our seniors played really well and a lot of underclassmen are making progress."

Riverside (1-0) held Union (0-2) to just 161 total yards and one touchdown, which came on a big play in the second half. On the other side of the ball, Riverside's offense struggled to move the ball consistently into scoring range, but the Pirates did run for 183 yards with senior Aramis Corpus accumulating 133 of those. Riverside's only score came on its opening possession when senior quarterback Mason Hegar connected with senior Felix Aparicio on a 17-yard touchdown pass.

Riverside will go for two straight wins Friday when it hosts Imbler for a 7 p.m. kick off.

ECHO 52, PILOT ROCK 6 — At Echo, the Cougars overcame a slow start with a big second half to knock off the Rockets, 52-6, on Friday night.

Echo (2-0) led just 16-0 at halftime as the offense had some new players in new positions, but a solid defensive effort kept the Rockets (0-2) at bay. The Cougars defense overall allowed just 72 total yards for Pilot Rock.

"The defense was the game-maker," Echo coach Rick Thew said. "They didn't allow anything and allowed our offense to figure things out and then we started to click."

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Hermiston's Jonathan Hinkle runs downfield as three Lewiston Bengals give chase during Friday's non-conference game at Kennison Field.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANEY

PREP ROUNDUP

Bulldogs shows off talent at home XC meet

HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston cross country team had its first real test of the season and it answered with top performance from young faces.

In the Runner's Soul XC Fest held Saturday at Sandstone Middle School, the Bulldogs put up podium worthy times. The girls team finished second in the 5,000-meter varsity race with 65 points — just five points shy from taking the No. 1 spot from Union — and the boys team placed third overall with 102 points.

"We did good. I was very pleased with both the boys and girls performance," head coach Troy Blackburn said. "We had very good performances from some of our young runners."

Those young runners included freshman Julianna Joyce, who finished third (20:59) behind teammate Sheila Solorio (20:53.9). Due to a busy day of high school athletics, the girls team was missing its No. 2 runner Amanda Nygard who was busy playing for the Hermiston girls soccer team at the time of the race.

"It's nice to know we were just one runner off from being solid," Blackburn added.

The boys team also saw top finishes from first-time runners. Isaac Sanchez placed fourth in 16:28.8, which was almost a new personal record in his first race, as he faced tough competition included the 2016 returning state champion.

"We're young on the boys side," Blackburn said. "I keep telling them they are in shape, it's just a matter of confidence, and it will take some more time but they are a good group of boys — a lot stronger than last year."

The cross country season will continue Sept. 16 with a meet at Oregon City High School.

See all official team scores from the Runner's Soul XC Fest below.

Official team scores from the girls 5,000-meter varsity race:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Union | 60 |
| 2. Hermiston | 65 |
| 3. Enterprise | 70 |
| 4. Oregon City | 109 |
| 5. La Grande | 120 |
| 6. Chiawana | 165 |
| 7. Southridge | 167 |
| 8. Tri-Cities Prep | 172 |
| 9. Heppner | 211 |
| 10. Toppensish | 248 |
| 11. Umatilla | 271 |

Official team scores from the boys 5,000-meter varsity race:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Union | 52 |
| 2. Southridge | 58 |
| 3. Hermiston | 102 |
| 4. Oregon City | 115 |
| 5. Pasco | 124 |
| 6. Chiawana | 146 |
| 7. College Place | 185 |
| 8. Tri-Cities Prep | 215 |
| 9. Heppner | 223 |
| 10. Stanfield | 245 |
| 11. Umatilla | 318 |
| 12. Elgin | 335 |

DAWGS SHUT OUT BENGALS

Hermiston dominates Lewiston at Kennison Field

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
STAFF WRITER

If it was the momentum change in the last 10 minutes of the Hermiston football team's season opener on Sept. 1 that lit a fire under the team, then Lewiston (ID) had no chance against the Bulldogs (1-1) on Friday at Kennison Field.

Hermiston welcomed the Bengals (1-2) for its first home game of the season and the Bulldogs had something to prove. After losing last year on Lewiston's home field to cap off an 0-2 start, Hermiston was going to do everything in its power to not let that happen again and a 26-0 win proved that.

Thanks to a 307 total yard performance from junior quarterback Andrew James, two interceptions from senior Joey Gutierrez and two fumble recoveries in the first 5 minutes of play, the Bulldogs avenged last season's loss with a shutout victory.

"It was good to feel the field again and we came out with a bang," James said before quickly reflecting on what didn't go the Bulldogs way.

"It got sloppy quick, a lot of penalties that we need to clean up, me over throwing balls," James said. "We had a great game but there's a lot of stuff we need to fix."

That game was capped off with an average of 6.7 yards per carry from the quarterback. James's explosiveness out of the pocket was what kept the offense on the field as it faced critical third downs. He finished with 19 carries for 129 yards.

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Hermiston quarterback Andrew James turns a quarterback keeper into a touchdown in the early minutes of Friday's non-conference game against Lewiston at Kennison Field.

What James lacked in the passing game (12-for-27) he made up for with his feet, head coach David Faeteete said after the game. Pair that with top-tier offensive perfor-

mances from senior running backs Jonathan Hinkle and Peter Earl, and the Bulldogs dominated the game on the ground.

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Hermiston hosts doubleheader, splits games

Boys soccer improves record; girls fall in hard-fought battle

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
STAFF WRITER

Saturday was a busy day in town for high school athletics. From a cross country meet to two soccer games and a volleyball match, Hermiston Bulldogs fans could spend the entire day cheering on various teams — two of which played at Kennison Field on Saturday.

The girls and boys soccer teams welcomed Rex Putnam for games at noon and 2:15, respectively. After 160 minutes of total play, the Bulldogs finished the day 1-for-1. The girls

lost 1-0 in a hard fought battle against the Kingmans in the first game, while the boys played aggressively to come away with a 2-1 win over Putnam.

Girls soccer

Hermiston maintained possession early, taking over five shots on goal in the first 20 minutes. The Bulldogs' (2-2) efforts were led by senior forward Hannah Thompson, who had yet another solid performance as one of the team's most versatile players.

"Hannah can play anywhere on the field we want her to, and so game-to-game situation we like to use her in those places where she will have success," assistant coach David Wattenburger said. With head coach Dan-



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEXIS MANSANAREZ

Senior forward Hannah Thompson (21) moves the ball upfield along side teammate Amanda Nygard and two players from the visiting team, Rex Putnam, at Kennison Field on Saturday.

ielle McBride absent due to illness, Wattenburger was at the helm for the girls fourth consecutive home game.

In the familiar scenery, the Bulldogs have slowly but surely built on the success of their first two wins despite Saturday's outcome

against the Kingsman (1-0). "There were some things specifically we've been wanting to work on with connecting our offense and our defense with some central mid play, and I loved

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Nick Bower
Pendleton Senior Quarterback

Bower completed 13 of 17 passes for 197 yards and 5 touchdowns to four different receivers as Pendleton defeated Putnam 34-2 on Saturday to pick up its first win of the season.

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